

# Hawaii MARINE

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 26

WWW.MCBH.USMC.MIL

JULY 1, 2005

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## ‘Island Warriors’ hit Afghanistan

‘America’s Battalion’  
hands reins over to  
fellow K-Bay Marines

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**JALALABAD, Afghanistan** — There is an atmosphere of anticipation before any significant event. The very air seems charged with electricity and feelings are high. For the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the day they had been waiting for was finally here — they were in Afghanistan.

Just before leaving Hawaii, no one who watched as the Marines and Sailors waited in a parking lot for the bus ride to the airport, would have believed that the Marines were about to deploy into a combat zone. Their eyes were wide with expectation, and there were smiles on everyone's face. There was also laughter and tears seen on the faces of the Marines, Sailors and family members who had come to see their friends and loved ones off. And, as always, there were last-minute kisses.

“It’s good to finally do something worthwhile,” said Sgt. Richard L. Deaton, section leader, from Tampa Bay, Fla. “It feels like we’ve been sitting on the bench for three years watching everyone else play, now we finally get to do our part.”

The Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, known as the “Island Warriors” replaced 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. “America’s Battalion,” led by Lt.

## Lingle speaks of leadership, pride

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Press Chief*

Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle spoke to a crowded room of Marines, Sailors and guests at this year's Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series, Tuesday, at the Base Theater, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Col. Michael C. O’Neal, base commander, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, welcomed and introduced Gov. Lingle before she spoke to the Marines, Sailors, and a host of others.

The governor began her speech by commenting on her pride and gratitude to U.S. military service members and the sacrifices they have made and are still making throughout the world. She also spoke specifically about the service members of Hawaii, and the positive impact that they have on the community. She expressed condolences for the tragedies the units of K-Bay have experienced during the past year.

“It seems as though many people get involved when we are seeing military members off to go

## 2/3 welcomes ambassador to Afghanistan

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — In a classic “local boy makes good,” Dr. Zalmai Khalilzad, now U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, returned to his hometown of Laghman Province, Afghanistan, on June 19 with a delegation of U.S. Embassy officials. Khalilzad and the delegation were in the region to dedicate a new Provincial Reconstruction Team and speak with a group of provincial offi-

cials.

The Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, also known as the “Island Warriors” provided security as well as a staging site for Khalilzad’s visit.

“It took a lot of coordination, and we burned a little midnight oil, but it was an honor for Fox Company to host the ambassador’s visit to Laghman Province,” said Capt Kelly J. Grissom, Fox Company commander.

The PRT conducts civil, military operations in the Laghman Province

in order to improve security, facilitate reconstruction, and strengthen the reach of the civil government to the provinces. The PRT is comprised of U.S. and coalition troops who establish a base of operations in a specific area and liaison with district governors and village elders in order to accomplish these tasks.

In an effort to influence local leaders and the general populace, the PRT equips and trains the police and facilitates the construction and reconstruction of schools, clinics, wells and roads.

According to U. S. military officials, the PRTs are showing significant signs of progress in Afghanistan. New construction is going on every day; businesses are opening; and people on the streets are living their daily lives, said Khalilzad in an issued statement. During his visit, Khalilzad personally thanked the Marines and other military services for their hard work and dedication to the security of Afghanistan.

See AMBASSADOR, A-6



Official Marine Corps photo

Louis H. Wilson, 85, Medal of Honor recipient for heroic actions fighting enemy forces at Fonte Hill, Guam, in World War II, and 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps, died June 21 at his Birmingham, Ala., home.

## Medal of Honor recipient, former CMC dies

**Press Release**

*Headquarters Marine Corps*

**WASHINGTON** — Louis H. Wilson, 85, Medal of Honor recipient for heroic actions fighting enemy forces at Fonte Hill, Guam, Mariana Islands, in World War II, and 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps, died June 21 at his home in Birmingham, Ala., with his family present.

A hero by any definition, Gen. Wilson was just a young captain and placed in command of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, when, although wounded several times, he succeeded in capturing and holding the strategic high ground in his regimental sector against a numerically greater force, which contributed significantly to the ultimate victory on Guam.

Gen. Wilson “repeatedly exposed himself to the merciless hail of shrapnel and bullets, dashing 50 yards into the open, on one occasion, to rescue a wounded Marine lying helpless beyond the front lines. Fighting fiercely in hand-to-hand encounters, he led his men in furiously waged battle for approximately 10 hours,” according to his Medal of Honor citation. Because of the wounds he received in the fierce fighting, then Capt. Wilson was evacuated to U.S. Naval Hospital San Diego where he remained until Oct. 16, 1944.

President Harry S. Truman personally thanked Gen. Wilson by presenting his award in a special ceremony at the White House in Washington.

Besides earning the nation's highest honor for heroism in combat, Gen. Wilson served in a variety of command and staff positions, which included service in Korea and command of The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. He graduated from the National War College in June 1962 and after a second tour at Headquarters, he returned to 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as the assistant chief of staff, G-3, deploying with the division first to Okinawa, Japan, and then to Vietnam.

This was followed by duty as commanding officer of 6th Marine Corps District in Atlanta.

Gen. Wilson was promoted to brigadier general in November 1966, and was the legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1967 and 1968. This was followed by a tour as chief of staff, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific and commanding general, 1 Marine Amphibious Force and 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa. Gen.

See WILSON, A-7



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Members of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, present the colors after arriving in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. The Marines and Sailors of 2/3, known as the ‘Island Warriors,’ replaced 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in Afghanistan.

Col. Norman L. Cooling, had been conducting operations in country for more than seven months. The Marines and Sailors of 3/3 returned home following the transfer of authority on June 15.

“We are here to help the people of Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Andrew R. MacMannis, commanding officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “The process starts by getting out into the countryside, and talking with the people and working with them to be able to provide proper security for the right reasons. Our philosophy is to be out as much as we can sustain, providing presence.”

For many of the Marines and Sailors, this will be their first deployment to a combat zone. According to those new to the experience, they are eager to do their part in the War on Terrorism and admit that many of them joined the Marine Corps and Navy simply for that reason.

“Nine-eleven set the mood,” admitted Pfc. Levi L. Evenson, machinegunner, from Fergus Falls, Minn. “After that, I decided to join. I came in right after high school because I wanted to make my family proud.”

Smiling, Evenson recalled, “Originally, I was going to go Air Force, but the Marine recruiter talked to me and told me how tough it was being a Marine. After I heard that, I was hooked.”



Photo Courtesy of Combat Camera

Col. Michael C. O’Neal, base commander, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, presents Gov. Linda Lingle with a KA-BAR, Tuesday evening, at the Base Theater as part of the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series.

She also made it a point, while overseas, to visit Marines in Korea who had traveled with soldiers to the 39th Parallel in order to know, first-hand, the seriousness of the situation in North Korea.

“We hear, everyday, about the War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Gov. Lingle, “but we don’t often get a chance to hear what goes on in other places where our military

See LINGLE, A-6



NEWS BRIEFS

State Alert to Sound Today

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be sounded today at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

New Weekend Hours for Mess Hall

New dinner hours for Anderson Hall mess hall on weekends and holidays will be 3 to 5 p.m.

Stand Up for America Fourth of July Parade

Each year, Stand Up for America participates in the Fourth of July Parade in Kailua. This is a patriotic parade that happens to be the largest Independence Day event on Oahu. This year, the theme of the 59th Annual Fourth of July Parade is “Kailua Honors American Heroes.”

SUFA is inviting the loved ones of deployed service members, and recently returned service members to march in the parade.

The parade will begin Monday at 10 a.m. on Kainalu Street, but all participants should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. The parade ends at Kailua Intermediate School at approximately 12 p.m.

For more information on SUFA, log onto their Web site at [www.standupforamerica.net](http://www.standupforamerica.net). To reserve a place in the parade, call or e-mail Mike Gabbard at 682-0618 or [mike@standupforamerica.net](mailto:mike@standupforamerica.net).

Parking Lot Closure

The B-503 parking lot will be closed through Tuesday for paving and on July 12 for striping.

Library Needs Volunteers

The Friends of the Library of Hawaii are having their 58th Annual Book Sale, July 9 through July 16. In preparation for the sale, help is needed on moving day. Twenty-five to 36 volunteers are needed for four to six hours starting at 9 a.m. and continuing to 3 p.m., on Tuesday. The library is renting two, 16-foot diesel trucks, but need two experienced drivers with commercial or mainland licenses to drive to and from the Kaimuki Library and McKinley High School areas.

There are approximately 3,100 boxes of books that must be moved. The boxes have all been sorted and packed in reasonably sized boxes — not huge, overweight packages. The plan is to have half the volunteers load the trucks at the Kaimuki Library and the other half unload at McKinley High School. Roller grids will be used to roll the boxes on and off the trucks. Volunteers at McKinley will help set up tables while waiting for the first delivery. Pizza Hut has donated 25 pizzas for lunch.

Proceeds from the 58th Annual Book Sale, go to support Hawaii’s public libraries. To volunteer, call 536-4174.

New Death Gratuity Plan

President Bush has signed an \$82 billion emergency war-spending bill that includes provisions to raise the death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000 for service members killed while serving in areas designated as combat zones. The legislation also increases the maximum life insurance benefit for service members from \$250,000 to \$400,000. In addition, it authorizes payments of \$100,000 to members who lose a limb or suffer other types of traumatic injury.

Contact Gunnery Sgt. John Hamilton at 257-8822 for more information.

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Call 257-4300 for more information.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188

### Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major  
Public Affairs Officer  
Public Affairs Chief  
Managing Editor  
Sports Editor  
Staff Writer  
Staff Writer  
Staff Writer  
Press Chief  
Staff Writer  
Lifestyles Editor  
News Editor

Col. Michael C. O’Neal  
Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks  
Maj. Patricia Johnson  
Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia  
Millie Perera  
Sgt. Joseph A. Lee  
Sgt. Joe Lindsay  
Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson  
Cpl. Rich Mattingly  
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner  
Pfc. Roger L. Nelson  
Susana Choy  
Kristin Herrick

The *Hawaii Marine* is an unofficial newspaper published every Friday by MidWeek Printing, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

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Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, Box 63062, BUILDING 216,  
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E-MAIL: [EDITOR@HAWAIIAMARINE.COM](mailto:EDITOR@HAWAIIAMARINE.COM)  
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8835

TMO provides tips to reduce moving stress

Sgt. Andrew P. Roufs

MCLB Albany

**MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE, ALBANY, Ga.** — Getting permanent change of station orders to another base or preparing to get out of the military can be the beginning of a very stressful time. There are many things a person needs to think about prior to the actual move.

The Traffic Management Office offers active, reserve and retired service members the opportunity to take the “grunt work” out of the move.

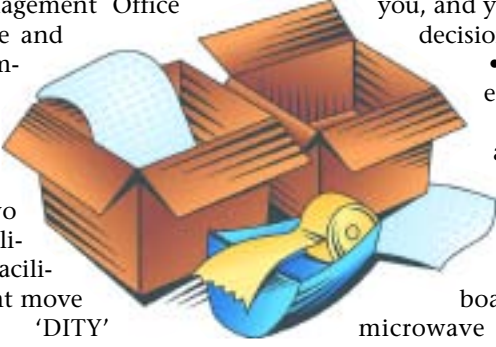
“There are two types of moves a military member can facilitate: the government move or Do-It-Yourself ‘DITY’ move,” said Norma Moss, transportation assistant, Traffic Management Office.

During a government move TMO takes care of the arrangement of the move for the service member.

To ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible TMO should be contacted immediately upon receipt of orders.

To prepare for your move you need to take the following when you visit TMO:

- Service members need four copies of orders (to include endorsements/ amendments), for each shipment.
- If you have a shipment and request non-temporary storage, you should have eight copies.
- Have an idea of moving date. Being flexible is imperative.



•Do not schedule other important appointments on the same day as the pick-up date because someone has to be at the residence from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on your scheduled pickup date.

•Letter of authorization signed by you or a power of attorney in the case you appoint your spouse or an agent to act in your behalf.

Remember, this person is acting for you, and you are responsible for their decisions.

•Be prepared for the packers when they arrive.

•Disconnect and place all components (stereo, computers) in their original cartons if available, but do not seal.

•Disassemble all fiber-board furniture such as microwave stands, stereo cabinets. These items tend to break easily.

•Dismantle outdoor play equipment, utility sheds, swing sets, playhouses, etc.

•Separate items which will not be shipped and identify clearly or place the items in the trunk your vehicle.

•Dispose of excess magazines and food that will spoil in transit. Both will only add unnecessary weight to our shipment.

•Do not leave cash, jewelry, passports, airline tickets or other important documents unattended, they might get packed.

•Ensure each item has an inventory tag affixed to it, do not allow items to be taken to the warehouse to be boxed.

•Ensure ‘crystal’ is clearly marked and have appraisals for items considered to be antiques.

•Keep all documents associated with the

government move for later use.

•If you disagree with the carrier’s representatives don’t argue with them, call TMO.

“Entitlements for a move are determined based on rank and destination of move. Your orders also tells us what entitlements to give,” Moss said.

“A person who is traveling overseas, specifically Okinawa, Japan has three separate shipments: express (items that will be needed/used immediately upon arrival), household goods and long-term storage (items that may not be needed or are prohibited for shipment to overseas locations),” Moss added.

During a DITY move the service member chooses to personally move his household goods. Entitlements for the move are given before the move and are based on estimated weight and mileage.

It is important that during this evolution the service member keeps TMO informed of any changes in orders, and provide us with a good telephone number for contact purposes, Moss said.

Once the move is over do not dispose of any damaged property. You must allow both the government and the carrier to inspect the damage if either requests to do so.

To schedule a move, whether a government move or DITY move, the person must have their official orders. Web orders are not acceptable.

Military members transitioning out of the military must have their 11060 form and retirees their retirement orders.

TMO is here to help ensure a smooth move, be it to another installation or out of the Corps. For more information regarding moves, call TMO at 257-5569.

HPA seeks military nominees

Press Release

Hawaii Psychological Association

The Hawaii Psychological Association, in cooperation with the American Psychological Association, announced the fifth annual Healthy Workplace Awards to promote psychological health in the workplace.

HPA has recognized several exemplary military units in past years. Each has modeled one or more “Best Practices” in the five areas that make up the award criteria: health, safety and security; employee involvement; career development; family support; and community service. Awards are available for large and small businesses, non-prof-

its, government and military.

Military units are invited to apply now; deadline to submit an application is Aug. 1. Applications are available online at [www.hawaii psych.org](http://www.hawaii psych.org), or by calling HPA at 521-8995.

In 2004, the 624th Regional Support Wing of Hickam Air Force Base won

the award for outstanding health and safety. Unit commander, Col. Pamela Milligan, a trained psychologist, stresses that a top priority for her 875 members

is keeping everyone healthy and functioning — including mental and emotional health. Their motto is “Safety even before the mission” and is put into practice in everything they do. With no mishaps, “We’re one big happy family,” said Milligan who meets with every deployed member’s family at least once every six weeks. To support her troops, Milligan seeks to know each personally and encourages them to seek counseling and

assistance when needed.

Knowing the importance of recognition and worker involvement, the commander has also made significant strides in connecting with and recognizing her staff.

“I trust my people, and I love open discussion,” said Milligan. People are encouraged to have and express their opinions. Since taking over the wing, 100 unit members have received decorations recognizing their service, and the unit has been decorated for high performance and a strong warrior spirit.

In 2003, the military unit winning the award was the Coast Guard Cutter Walnut, homeported at Sand Island, Hawaii, for its excellence in meeting the needs of its crewmembers. Though its primary role is a buoy tender, the ship also handles boardings, oil spills, minesweeping and other dangerous tasks. Despite this, the ship regularly completes 95 percent of the drills and tasks assigned to them. To succeed at

this rate under such difficult circumstances as the open ocean, the ship spends time on training and skills development. They also take the time to ensure that the needs of their Coast Guardsmen and families are met.

While returning from deployment to the Middle East in 2003, the ship brought aboard a mental-health specialist to assist the crew in the difficult transition back to life in the states with family. Lt. Cmdr. Walt Wrzesniewski said, “I do a lot of liaison work. Work-Life services support Coast Guard mission readiness. When the ships get underway and the aircraft take off, we want our people to be clearheaded and focused on their jobs. Work-Life uses the synergies of a team approach,” he emphasized, “and we have a great team!”

Drake Beil, Ed.D., Healthy Workplace Awards committee member, said that HPA recognizes the direct link between employee satisfaction and organizational success. “It is one of our goals to make each workplace safe, secure and healthy

See AWARD, A-7



Marine Forces Pacific Band Schedule

Today, 5:30 p.m.

Bayfest Opener  
Dixieland Band  
Hangar 101

Monday, 10 a.m.

Kailua 4th of July Parade  
Kailua

Monday, 6 p.m.

BayFest Closer  
Showband  
Bayfest Stage

Wednesday, 3 p.m.

Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Marine Corps Base Hawaii  
Aviator Memorial

The Marine Forces Pacific Band schedule of performances is available on the Web at [www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.htm](http://www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.htm).



BIERMAN



RAMOS

1/3 Change of Command

Lt. Col. James W. Bierman will take over command of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Lt. Col. Michael R. Ramos in a Change of Command ceremony at 2 p.m., Tuesday, at Dewey Square on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Ramos will move on to G-3 at Marine Forces Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. Bierman is coming from the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force command element, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



**Day** — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, northeasterly winds at 8-10 mph

**Night** — Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers, northeasterly winds at 6 mph

**High — 82**  
**Low — 75**

Saturday



**Day** — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, easterly winds at 8-10 mph

**Night** — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, easterly winds at 6 mph

**High — 83**  
**Low — 74**

Sunday



**Day** — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, easterly winds at 8-10 mph with gusts to 15 mph

**Night** — Partly cloudy with temporarily mostly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, easterly winds at 8 mph

**High — 82**  
**Low — 75**





# Officer continues family tradition

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**JALALABAD, Afghanistan** — “My father and grandfather were Marine Corps officers, and now that I have a son,” said 1st Lt. Ryan B. Cohen, platoon commander for Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, “I think it would be neat if we could make it four generations of Marine Corps officers.”

According to Cohen’s grandfather, the Cohen family was the only Jewish family with three generations of officers in the Marine Corps. It is this tradition that Cohen said that he would like to see those in his family continue.

The earliest in the family’s line of Marine Corps officers was retired Col. Phillip Ryan, who enlisted in the infantry during World War II and was a champion boxer for the Marine Corps. Next was retired Col. Bob Cohen who also played sports for the Marine Corps, on a basketball team. He served the Corps for 27 years, retiring in 1997. After being raised in a Marine Corps environment, Ryan Cohen’s decision to join the Marine Corps shouldn’t have been much of a surprise.

“It was my second year of college that I called my dad and told him my decision. My

dad was an outstanding role model. He treated me like one of his Marines, but in a good way,” said Cohen, laughing. “Even though he was on the Marine Corps basketball team, when we used to play one-on-one, I would beat him.”

“I was extremely proud when he told me he wanted to be a Marine. That he made a commitment to serve our nation during a time of war, to me he represents the kind of young men that join the Corps,” said Bob Cohen in a phone interview.

When the youngest Cohen surprised his father with the news that he wanted to be a Marine, he got his own surprise.

“About 20 minutes after I talked to my dad, a Marine Corps gunnery sergeant showed up on my doorstep. The very next week I took my first physical fitness test with my dad alongside me. Even though he was 52-years-old and had been retired for three years, he got a 289 and beat me by four points,” said Cohen, smirking.

While he still calls his father for advice, sometimes, about his Marines, the younger Cohen has a style all his own.

“Lieutenant Cohen cares about his Marines,” said Sgt. Matthew J. Graff, infantry squad leader, from Rockfort, Ill.



**Lt. Ryan B. Cohen, platoon commander, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, gives orders during a mounted patrol.**

Before the unit deployed to Afghanistan, Bob Cohen came out to meet his son’s platoon.

“After meeting his dad, you realized that Lieutenant Cohen was genetically bred to be a Marine officer,” said Cpl. Jesse A. Showalter, infantryman, from Fairfield, Calif., “From privates to sergeants, everyone knows he cares.”

## On patrol



**A Marine from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provides security during a patrol. The “Island Warriors” are in Afghanistan providing support for Operation Enduring Freedom.**

# Sergeant builds his squad from the ground on up



**Marines of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are clockwise from far left: Lance Cpl. Albert H. Mendiola, Pfc. Rick L. Wheeler, Pfc. Benjamin Castro, Lance Cpl. Dustin R. Epperly, Lance Cpl. Jared R. Damanske, Lance Cpl. Rudy R. Ramirez, Pfc. Christopher W. Domstrand, Lance Cpl. Paul E. Greenfield, Lance Cpl. Justin L. Monk and Sgt. Oscar A. Rauda.**

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**JALALABAD, Afghanistan** — Everyone knows that the United States Marine Corps is a small organization; in particular those who serve as instructors discover the Marine Corps can be very small indeed. While many of wish for the chance to train Marines from the “ground up,” one School of Infantry instructor got his chance to do just that.

Sgt. Oscar A. Rauda, infantry squad leader, from Santa Cruz, Calif., just finished a three-year tour in March as a combat instructor at the Infantry Training Battalion, SOI, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. During his tour, Rauda was Battalion Instructor of the Year.

Following his tour as an instructor, he reported to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd

Marine Regiment, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Upon reporting, he was surprised to discover that seven out of the 10 Marines in his squad were his former students.

“It was a great experience — being an instructor — but it is even more rewarding when you get to train the Marines and then serve with them in a combat zone,” said Rauda, grinning as he discussed his Marines. “I had a good feeling because I remembered them all, and so I knew the squad I was getting would be ready for the coming challenge.”

According to the California native, being an instructor at SOI had its own series of challenges. The hours were long, and the job was stressful. Most of the instructors stood duty once or twice a week, so the Marine students were never left unsupervised during the entire two-month train-

ing cycle. The effort was required in order to teach the Marines the basics of infantry patrolling, land navigation, weapons systems, basic survival skills, and much more that would prepare them for follow-on training that they would receive once they reached their respective duty stations.

Most of the Marines from a class are separated and disbursed throughout several battalions where they are further separated and sent to companies. It is for this reason that it is particularly unusual that there would be so many students, trained by one instructor, serving together.

“At first I didn’t believe my old instructor would be leading my squad. I knew it would be good because he had a lot of knowledge and experience, so it made me more comfortable,” said



# Praying with the troops

## Battalion chaplain celebrates 25 years in the priesthood

1/3 Sailor passes milestone while deployed to OEF

**Cpl. Rich Mattingly**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**CAMP SCHOENER-KIRVEN, JALAL-ABAD, Afghanistan** — When the young, newly minted black belt first stepped into the ring with the master, he looked across the mat at the toughest opponent he had ever faced, and he spoke a silent prayer: “Lord, if I can throw him — if I make him stumble even a little bit, then I’m going to start training for the Olympics and really devote my life to this. If he throws me, though, then I’m going to give this up, go back to school, and become a priest — devoting my life to you.”

Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Paul Evers, battalion chaplain, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, remembering the Judo match, laughed as he sat in his office behind the newly christened Schoener-Kirven Chapel that was built at the Marine Corps camp that bears the same name.

“You can imagine what happened; he really cleaned my clock,” he chuckled. “It was the best thing that could have happened to me.”

Remembering this story was especially meaningful, according to the chaplain, looking back on his military career on the eve of the silver anniversary of his ordination.

It just so happened that the United States did not participate in the 1980 Olympics — the games for which Evers would have been preparing. And, as it turned out, Evers was ordained as a Catholic Priest at St. Anthony’s Church in Kailua, Hawaii, on June 15 of that

year.

After 10 years as a parish priest in Mililani, Evers petitioned the church for an opportunity to pursue a position in the Navy Chaplain Corps, which is how Evers’ story led him to be in Afghanistan on this 25th anniversary. However, his first post, 15 years ago, was not his first time in uniform. According to Evers, he spent the Vietnam era as a Marine with a force reconnaissance unit.

“My father was the skipper of a sub chaser in World War II,” explained Evers, “He was promilitary, but he wanted me to stay in school and finish rather than drop out and enlist in the Marines. I compromised and enlisted in the reserves, finishing up at Western Virginia University where I was going to school.”

Evers said he later traveled to Oahu to study at the Pearl City Judo Club in order to earn his black belt in Judo.

“It was the best place for me,” he admitted, “My teacher was a Japanese grandmaster.”

From being a grunt to studying with a Judo master, and then on to priesthood, Evers said it has always been his desire to live life to the fullest and experience as much as he can. Since joining the church, this has meant a focus on a ministry “outside of the mainstream.”

Working in prison ministry, with the homeless in Hawaii, and with Marines and Sailors, Evers said it is his desire to share his faith and passion with as many people as he can — people who might not always find time or feel welcome in a church.

“I never wanted to stay in a church during my priesthood,” said Evers. “Here, with America’s Battalion, I’ve been able to do that. The commanding officer has let me get around to the forward operations bases and be with the Marines and Sailors and not just sit in a



The commanders and sergeants major of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines; 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines; the battalion chaplains of both battalions and Task Force Devil’s commanders pose with the Schoener-Kirven Chapel signs just after the dedication of the chapel at the camp of the same name. Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Paul Evers, battalion chaplain with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, stands center.

chapel in the rear. I like to always be on the go.”

Evers, now in his mid-fifties, shows no signs of slowing down. He is obviously thrilled to be around Marines and Sailors as much as he can.

“Marines have not changed since I was a young lance corporal,” he said, smiling. “These young men are the greatest patriots we have, and the finest Americans. The fact that they are so young, making such huge decisions in their lives, and are doing that while being Marines deployed to war is just incredible. Looking at them, I like to think that I see myself, and that keeps me going.”

Throughout his military career, Evers said he has tried to “stay green” as much as possible. This has meant various tours with Marine “victor” units, including 3/3. It also meant finding himself as a chaplain working in the very same squad bay that he had been in as a recruit at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. — an experience he described as haunting.

On his 25th anniversary in the Chaplain Corps, Evers performed a special ceremony for the America’s Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

As the commanding officers of both battalions held signs bearing the names of the two

3/3 Marines who lost their lives in a fight with insurgents, Evers sprinkled holy water on the Chapel placard. He said the ability to christen the chapel and add to the legacy of two men that he said were inspirations for any American was an especially moving way for him to mark his quarter-century in the Church.

The chapel at Camp Schoener-Kirven is sparse, with rough-hewn benches as pews and a modest wooden altar the only adornment, but Evers said he is proud to call it home. As his deployment winds down, he reflects back to the past 25 years as a chaplain.

“The priesthood has never been about cathedrals and fancy churches for me,” he said. “I’ve always strived to make my ministry about the people who most need it and that has nothing to do with how a church looks.”

“I think many priests would want to do this in their home parish with a lot of pomp and circumstance, but not Chaplain Evers,” said Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Ron Nordan, 2/3’s battalion chaplain. “This speaks to the kind of man he is.”

When asked about his future plans, Evers again laughed and said, “I think the first 25 years were just the warm-up. Now I’m really ready to see what the next 25 years holds.”

# From sandbox to sandbox

## Chance meeting rekindles 35-year-old friendship

**Army Sgt. Adrian Schulte**  
*Combined Joint Task Force 76*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — “Where are you from?” It’s a common question asked and

answered by countless service members every day around the world. For two troops, however, the answer would take them down a memory lane 35 years long.

Both decided to serve their coun-

try, one in the Air Force, one in the Marine Corps. After joining, they both became aviators, flying helicopters for their respective services. They both have risen to the ranks of lieutenant colonel and have both found themselves serving in the far off land of Afghanistan. And they were classmates together ... at East Brady Elementary School in the tiny town of East Brady, Penn.

About 35 years ago, Air Force Lt. Col. Tim Reichart and Marine Corps. Lt. Col. Larry Stewart, parted ways as Stewart’s family moved to Brookeville, about an hour away. Then early June, two men, who thought they had never met, began talking about what troops routinely talk about, where they were from.

The chance meeting happened at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The two men were part

of the same mission. They were to be inserted by helicopter on the top of a 10,000-foot peak where an Afghan airliner crashed in February. Reichart, who is the director of operations of the joint personnel recovery agency, was going up the mountain to oversee the recovery of remains that were still on the mountain. Stewart, who is a planner with Combined Joint Task Force 76, was headed up on the mountain to examine the area for possible use as a future training site for high-altitude operations.

The two officers were standing on the flight line at the Bagram airport chatting and passing time while waiting for the weather to clear up for the helicopter ride.

“Stewart mentioned that he was from Pennsylvania,” said Reichart. “He mentioned a town probably an hour away from me and I said, ‘Wow. I live in East Brady.’ He said he used to live there. I looked at his name tag and figured out who he was, but I hadn’t seen him in about 35 years.”

“We had been through a few briefings together, but it just never clicked,” said Stewart. “We went to the same church and the same

school. I hear about him all the time. My whole extended family is still in East Brady, so I go back there a lot. And I hear, ‘Hey have you seen Tim Reichart around? Naw, he joined the Air Force, and I joined the Marine Corps and kind of went separate ways.’ But every time I went back, somebody would ask me about him. I would hear where he was stationed, but I didn’t think I would ever see him again.”

Reichart still owns a home in the small town of a little more than one thousand people. His parents, Bob and Gloria Reichart, still live there. He is currently stationed at Fort Belvoir, Va. Stewart, who is stationed out of Okinawa, Japan, has a grandmother, Dorothy Wimer, who still lives in Brady. His parents, Jude and Sharon Kendra, live nearby in Brookville.

Stewart now, however, has another reason to visit East Brady – to rekindle a friendship that is more than a quarter-century old.

“He’s given me his address now,” said Stewart, “and every time we go back to East Brady, I’ll go swimming in his pool with my kids and help him work on his house”



Air Force Lt. Col. Tim Reichart (left) and Marine Lt. Col. Larry Stewart, stand atop Hill 3070 outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, during a June 19 mission there. The two elementary-school classmates were reunited in Afghanistan, 35 years after Stewart’s family moved from their hometown.

To read the *Hawaii Marine* online, visit at [www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil) on the Web.



# New vehicles counter IEDs, ambushes

**Pfc. J. Ethan Hoaldrige**  
*U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific*

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii** — “Block off all their main and secondary supply lines for these are their main arteries, and ambush them along those routes for they are exposed and easy prey.”

These words from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi were cited by the Winds of Change Web site, showing the real danger for convoys traveling Marine supply lines in Iraq.

There have been 341 Marines killed in action and 4,099 wounded in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom since February 16, 2004. How many of these fatalities and casualties have been caused by improvised explosive devices and ambushes on convoys? Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles could have saved some of those lives and kept those Marines in the fight.

With its flat bottom and soft-skin plastic doors, if a humvee is directly hit by a land mine or IED, most likely the passengers inside will lose their life and the vehicle will be destroyed beyond repair, said Maj. Gert de Wet, Central Command plans officer.

“In 1968, South Africans, in conjunction with Rhodesians, started developing the technology to create new vehicles that would counter the land-mine threat introduced in the Bush War in Southern Africa. They developed the technology that created a new modular design for their military vehicles. For example, the vehicle’s wheels could be blown off in a mine/IED blast, but the passengers and the rest of the vehicle survived,” said de Wet.

“South Africa and Rhodesia did not have a large military and realized that you cannot afford to loose lives on the battlefield,” said de Wet. “These countries also didn’t have a large military budget and soon found that it was too expensive to loose a vehicle every time it hit a mine. It was far cheaper to replace an axle or wheel than an entire vehicle.”

“The military in South Africa and Rhodesia



Lance Cpl. Will Lathrop

**Sgt. Jason Tinnel, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with Combat Service Support Battalion 1, stands up on the new hardened engineering vehicle, “Cougar,” to watch the detonation of a weapons cache on the edge of Fallujah, Iraq.**

have been using these vehicles for the past 30 years, steadily improving the technology,” said de Wet.

The Marine Corps recognized these vehicles’ successful track record and became interested in incorporating them into the fleet.

The Corps decided to do business with Force Protection, located in South Carolina, which is the company that developed a version of a Mine Resistant Ambush protected vehicle named the Cougar.

“These vehicles are all designed from the ground up, specifically built to survive IEDs and ambushes. The v-shaped hull assists deflection of a mine or IED blast away from the vehicle’s capsule, keeping the passengers safe and

the vehicle intact. The vehicle is also built to roll over and is equipped with multi-point, racing style harnesses, so if the vehicle rolled 360 degrees, the passengers inside would avoid injury,” said de Wet.

Ballistic glass, another feature on the Cougar, allows Marines to see and engage an enemy ambush through the gun ports in the glass not exposing themselves to fire.

In a humvee, gunners are usually perched above the vehicle on a 50-caliber machine-gun open to enemy fire, while in some vehicles the passengers inside cannot see what direction enemy fire is coming from.

“When I was deployed forward, a friend of mine was in an ambush in a light-armored

vehicle,” said de Wet. “They got out of the vehicle not knowing they were being attacked on the left side, and luckily didn’t take casualties. In a Cougar, you could just look out the glass and engage.”

Marines started reaping the benefits of the MRAP vehicles in Fall 2004 after procuring around 27 Cougars.

Because of these benefits the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force requested 1,169 MRAP vehicles. There are different variants such as, multi-mission combat vehicles, ambulance-variant vehicles, troop-transport vehicles, and so on.

“The Corps presently uses them in Iraq for explosive ordinance disposal. When receiving calls from convoys that come upon land mines or IEDs, they could send an EOD team out in a Cougar. So even if the mine hits the Cougar, its passengers will stand a far better chance of survival due to the v-shaped hull design and other special features incorporated in the vehicle,” explained de Wet.

The Cougar is scalable as well, meaning that it can be used for humanitarian efforts as well as combat by detaching the arms and gun systems to look less lethal, but still protects the crew against threats from terrorists such as, Al Queda.

“The Cougar has been hit by IEDs and ambushes and done very well. As far as I know to date, no one has gone to the hospital as a result of an attack,” said de Wet. “I have a friend in Iraq right now who has survived four IED blasts in the same MRAP vehicle, and after some repair, the vehicle is still in use,” he continued.

The Cougar may be the rebuttal to al-Zarqawi’s statement that the supply lines are unprotected. The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles could cause a role reversal between the predator and its prey.

“The Marine Corps now has an opportunity and a way to alleviate the problem of so many casualties from IEDs and ambushes in Iraq,” said de Wet.

# Forgotten War still remembered, even 55 years later

Many Korean War veterans attended the wreath presentation to remember those who served and sacrificed during the war. The memorial ceremony marked the 55th anniversary of the Korean War and was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Saturday.



Pfc. J. Ethan Hoaldrige

**Pfc. J. Ethan Hoaldrige**  
*U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific*

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii** — While advancing with his platoon in an attack against heavily fortified enemy hill positions in Hangnyong, Korea, June 10, 1951, Cpl. Charles G. Abrell contributed directly to the success of his platoon in attaining its objective and gave his life for his country, according to Abrell’s Medal of Honor citation.

There were many like Abrell who served and sacrificed during the Korean War to give South Korea a chance for democracy and freedom.

During a wreath presentation and memorial ceremony marking the 55th

anniversary of the Korean War held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Saturday, attendants remembered those who served and their acts of sacrifice during the war, such as Abrell’s. His mighty charge under intense and accurate gunfire led to a courageous leap into an enemy bunker taking out an entire enemy gun crew.

Actions such as those warrant commemoration

*See KOREAN, A-6*



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad and a delegation of U.S. Embassy officials visit Laghman Province, Afghanistan, June 19, to dedicate a new Provincial Reconstruction Team and speak to a group of provincial officials and military personnel. “We are approaching a critical phase with the approach of the elections. Enemies of peace will use violence to try to stop our advance,” Khalilzad said in a speech.

AMBASSADOR, From A-1

Khalilzad is the highest-ranking native Afghan and Muslim in the Bush administration. He became George W. Bush’s special envoy to Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban and has been a special envoy to Iraq during the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq. On Sept. 24, 2003, Bush also named Khalilzad the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. Khalilzad took his post in Kabul on Nov. 27, 2004, and is now serving as the U.S. ambassador to Iraq.

KOREAN, From A-5

to remember history and understand the cost of freedom. There were many Korean War veterans and distinguished guests who attended to show their patriotism for these heroes. Admiral William J. Fallon, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, was one of many guest speakers, along with retired Marine Col. Gene Castagnetti, director of the Punchbowl Cemetery; and the Honorable Heung Sik Choi, Consul-General of the Republic of Korea. Many of the speakers mentioned the progress of South Korea’s government and its economic success, currently the 10th largest economy in the world, accrediting it to the past and present efforts of South Korea and U.S. military. Through a joint effort, all of the services were able to provide a color guard and an honor volley for those killed and missing in action from the Korean War. There were 54,246 American service members who lost their lives during the war. Korean War veteran and civilian organizations presented floral wreaths in respect for the men and women who paid the ultimate price. Admiral Fallon’s concluding remarks summed up the significance of the ceremony by saying, “Many times it is called the forgotten war, but I take our presence here as a strong indicator that it is not.”



Pic. J. Ethan Hoaldridge

An Army soldier from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Rifle Detail, performs an honor volley in remembrance of the service members missing and killed in action during the Korean War. The ceremony was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Saturday.

LINGLE, From A-1

members are in danger.” Gov. Lingle then spoke about her experiences with leadership, gaining power and the responsibilities that come with both. “A good leader is quick to share credit when things go right,” she began, “but they are quicker to take the blame when things go wrong.” She humbly explained that even if the blame is not entirely the fault of the person in a leadership position, that they should still take charge and take the full brunt of the consequences. “It is good for the human spirit to have to stand up in front of a crowd of people and explain that you made a mistake,” said Gov. Lingle, “and then it is time to change it and move forward.” Before concluding her speech, Gov. Lingle discussed her stance on political issues and issues that the state is currently facing, as well as various strategic decisions that are affecting Hawaii’s citizens and military members. She then opened the floor for a question and answer period. Members of the audience asked about issues concerning veteran’s benefits and the Akaka bill, which is the Native Hawaiian Recognition bill. A question was also asked about the rumor about Hawaii succeeding from the United States. The governor answered by saying that it was just that — a rumor.

After the question and answer period, Gov. Lingle thanked everyone for coming to listen to her speech. At the close of the lecture O’Neal presented her with a gift from the base, a cased KA-BAR. Her reaction to receiving such a gift was of pride as well as amusement as she quipped that she could use it as a source of inspiration in the office. “In all my time as mayor and governor, I have received many gifts,” she concluded, “But never one that encompassed the people I spoke to as much as this one.

DUIs are career killers

Congratulations Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay; there are no DUIs to report this week.



WILSON, From A-1

Wilson became director of the Education Center at MCB Quantico in 1971, and in 1972 he assumed command of Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific. He was appointed Commandant of the Marine Corps July 1, 1975. In October of 1978, Gen. Wilson achieved full membership on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gen. Wilson retired June 30, 1979, and will always be remembered as skillfully guiding the Marine Corps through the turbulent and challenging post-Vietnam era. During his tenure as commandant, he laid a firm foundation of high standards and demanding training that ensured that the Marine Corps remained a modern, mobile, general purpose, combined armed force with amphibious expertise prepared for low- and high-intensity combat against a wide spectrum of potential foes around the globe.

“The entire Marine Corps family is saddened by the passing of Marine General Louis Hugh Wilson, Jr., our 26th Commandant, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends,” said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

“General Wilson was a forward-thinker who was ahead of his time. As commandant from 1975 to 1979, he

stressed modernization, readiness, expeditionary capabilities and integrated firepower — areas that we still concentrate on today. His legacy of valor and leadership will live forever in the Marine Corps.”

After his military retirement in June of 1979, Gen. Wilson lived in Mississippi and California, and subsequently moved to be near family in Birmingham. During this time he felt privileged to serve on the boards of Merrill Lynch, Burlington Resources and the Fluor Corporation.

Gen. Wilson’s culminating act of public service occurred in October of 1995, when at age 75 he addressed a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

Gen. Wilson is survived by his wife, Jane Clark Wilson; daughter, Janet Wilson Taylor; son-in-law

Jarred O. Taylor II; and grandsons Jarred O. Taylor III and Louis Wilson Taylor, all of Birmingham, Alabama.

The Wilson family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations in the general’s memory be made to the Marine Corps University Foundation of which he was a long-term trustee (P.O. Box 122 Quantico, Va. 22134-0122), or other Marine Corps related organization.

Gen. Wilson’s full biography is available at [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil).



AWARD, From A-2

for all. These awards are another step in creating awareness of what excellence in the workplace looks like, establishing objective criteria based on sound research and recognizing great companies to work for in Hawaii,” Beil said.

Michael Stollar, HMSA vice president of corporate communications, said, “At HMSA we strongly believe that a healthier workplace is good for all organizations in Hawaii, and we’re proud to be a platinum sponsor of the Hawaii Psychological Association’s Healthy Workplace Awards again this year.”

As part of the evaluation, a team of HPA psychologists will conduct site visits to the finalist’s units. The awards will be presented in October 2005 at the HPA Annual Conference in Honolulu.

HPA’s Web site contains descriptions of the best practices of last year’s winners. They are: Non Profit: Helping Hands Hawaii; Government: Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs; Military: 624 Regional Support Group; Small Business (tie): Alstom Power and Pacific Shipyards International Division; Large Business: City Mill.

This is the fifth year the award will be given in Hawaii and the sixth year nationally. Last year, of the 41 states and provinces now presenting the Healthy Workplace Awards, Hawaii enjoyed one of the highest response rates in the country to the awards.

Event sponsors include Platinum Sponsor HMSA; Gold Sponsor Hawaii Employers council; and Silver Sponsors Alstom Power Inc., Argosy University, Hawaii Business Equipment, Inc., Belt Collins Hawaii Ltd. and Otsuka’s Furniture & Appliances.

Chartered in 1962, the Hawaii Psychological Association is the professional association representing more than 300 Hawaii psychologists. Its mission is to advance

the science and practice of psychology while supporting excellence in education, training, research, advocacy and service. HPA works to inform the public and the Hawaii Legislature about psychology to ensure that quality health services, both public and private, are available to the diverse people of Hawaii. HPA’s parent group, the American Psychological Association, has an active membership of more than 86,000, making it one of the largest professional associations in the United States.

2/3, From A-3

Lance Cpl. Justin L. Monk, 2/3 infantryman, from Stephenville, Texas.

“We used to do impersonations of him behind his back,” He said, slyly grinning. “‘Hey Devil Dog, when you get to the fleet ...’,” speaking in a deep, gruff voice that was supposed to resemble Rauda’s.

The Marines assigned to Rauda’s squad said that they considered themselves to be lucky to have a familiar face leading them. Most Marines do not recognize anybody in the units they are assigned to, so being led into combat by a familiar face is a relief to the Marines in Rauda’s squad.

“It was like being reunited with family; I couldn’t believe it,” said a laughing Lance Cpl. Dustin R. Epperly, infantryman, from Pierce City, Mo. “He always motivated me. He was notorious for smearing an entire tube of green paint on his head whenever we had to ‘cammie up,’ it made him look like a dang Ninja Turtle.”

Rudi and his squad are currently serving in the Laghman Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.